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LANSING



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Tuesday, July 13, 2004
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Michigan Ranks Number One In Digital Government

Lansing - A recently released national survey ranks Michigan first in the nation in the use of information technology to transform and improve government. The Digital States Survey, conducted by the Center for Digital Government in conjunction with Government Technology magazine, is the nation's most recognized and respected study of information technology in all 50 states. Michigan climbed to number one from a second place finish from the previous survey taken in 2002.

"We're using information technology to support and enhance the core functions of Michigan government and to position our state as a global economic powerhouse in the 21st century," said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. "Information technology is playing a critical role in every aspect of our work. Whether it's helping us work with local governments and the private sector to improve efficiencies or helping us create jobs through economic development initiatives, information technology is at the heart of Michigan's state government."

The 2004 survey examined a whole new breed of technology as a tool for serving citizens and state governments' needs, according to Cathelia Robinett, executive director of the Center for Digital Government. Robinett said Michigan's first place finish reflects its performance in the areas of service delivery, cost saving and efficiency, collaboration, and leadership. "It is with great pleasure that we award Michigan the Digital States Award," said Robinett. "Michigan has exhibited a tremendous amount of leadership and determination throughout the years. They have made bold moves to advance Michigan as a leader in the global economy and have been devoted to providing the highest level of service to their citizens. I have tremendous respect for Governor Granholm's vision and state Chief Information Officer Teri Takai's dedication."

Teri Takai, Director of the Michigan Department of Information Technology, was appointed by Governor Granholm in February of 2003 to take charge of technology with a clear direction for utilizing technology to make Michigan the best place to live and work. Since taking the position, Takai has focused on providing more and more government services online so that Michigan citizens and businesses find it easier to obtain services and do business with the state.

“This first place finish is great news for the State of Michigan,” Takai said. “Information technology is a powerful tool for delivering services and has the potential to change the way government does business. This award recognizes how far Michigan has come in making that transformation a reality. I gratefully acknowledge the work of our employees and agency partners who made it possible.”

The 2004 survey has a greater focus on strategy, management, and results than previous surveys. This year’s survey is the first report on the transition of states to digital government since the 2002 elections. It was the breadth and depth of Michigan’s performance that distinguished it among other top states, according to Paul W. Taylor, Ph.D., a chief strategy officer at the Center. “Michigan changed the citizen and business experience through a broad suite of real-time transactional services, powered by an increasingly shared and robust infrastructure, designed around a coherent statewide architecture, and supported by a collaborative planning process,” said Taylor.

Other top finishers include the State of Washington in second place and Virginia at number three. Rounding out the top ten are Indiana, Arizona, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Arkansas, Colorado and North Carolina (tied for 10th).

Governor Granholm will accept the award on behalf of the State of Michigan at an awards ceremony this month in conjunction with the National Governors Association meeting in Seattle, Washington.

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